SURVEY OF THE DIALECT OF SELSTON IN THE EREWASH VALLEY

by J.G. Storr

SUMMARY

This study is a survey of the dialect of Selston parish, a mining area on the Nottinghamshire side of the Erewash Valley. Following a brief outline of the geographical, industrial, historical, educational and social context in which the dialect has evolved, a detailed analysis of the sound system of the dialect is presented and the sounds of the dialect are compared to those of RP. Central to the study are two glossaries. The first is a general glossary comprising words and phrases which are lexically unusual outside the area, and, although not necessarily restricted to Selston, are not commonly found in standard varieties of English. Secondly, a mining glossary represents the specialised language of the collier's working life.

As Selston is a dialectal break-up area, this study compares the traditional and conservative dialect of the older generation of miners with the modified speech of those who are more subject to outside influence. It investigates the different effects of this external influence upon vocabulary and pronunciation, commenting on the resultant modifications.

Grammatical and syntactical features of the dialect create fewer difficulties of interpretation to outsiders

than do pronunciation and vocabulary, but some of the more important features are discussed, emphasis being placed on constructions which, although not necessarily peculiar to Selston, are not widespread in English usage.

The Selston area is a rich source of linguistic and cultural tradition. The part played by the dialect in the oral transmission of traditional forms is investigated in a discussion of oral style, which links the foregoing analysis of the language with a subsequent examination of aspects of local folklore. Finally, phonetic transcriptions taken from the living dialect are included so that the diverse elements of Selston speech analysed in the main discussion can be reconstituted into their original lively continuum.

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ABBREVIATIONS

adj.	adjective
cf.	"confer", compare
diss.	dissertation
EDD	see Bibliography, Wright, J.
EDS	Publications of the English Dialect Society (London)
e.g.	"exempli gratia", for example
E.Mod.E.	Early Modern English
ibid.	"ibidem", in the same place
i.e.	"id est", that is
IPA	International Phonetic Association
l(l)	line(s)
ME	Middle English
Mn.E.	Modern English
n.	noun
N.	North
(N)	Nelson, A. Dictionary of Mining. See Bibliography
OED	Oxford English Dictionary. See Bibliography
p(p).	page(s)
RP	received English pronunciation
S.	South
SED	Survey of English Dialects
S.La.	South Lancashire
v.	verb
WR	West Riding of Yorkshire

SYMBOLS

[ ] enclose a phonetic transcription using IPA notation.

| ‖ ‖ ‖ } pauses in speech. See Chapter 8, p. 314.

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